

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY LIBRARY

Library Newsletter

Special Edition Annual Report 2001-2002

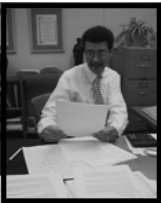
Winter 2002



San Bernardino
County Library
www.sbcounty.gov/library



From The Desk Of The Library Director



About five years ago, when use of the Internet started to increase dramatically, newspaper and magazine articles began predicting the eventual demise of the public library. Usage would begin to decline because "...you don't have to travel to the Library for information when you can get it at home through the Internet". It was also assumed that public libraries would need less space as the need for book space would diminish. It was thought that libraries might become obsolete. Public libraries have found that just the oppo-

site has occurred. Usage has increased dramatically as people of all ages have begun using public libraries on a regular basis to access the Internet. Librarians opening the library doors in the morning are often confronted with people waiting to utilize the library's computers and at closing often have to nag people to shut down the computers. People are using the library not only to get on-line but also to seek assistance for finding information they want. Just for fun I typed in the word Tigers for an Internet search. I got 1.6 million hits. Our patrons have found that library staff have become quite knowledgeable in match-

ing them with the sites they need. Staff now spend considerable amounts of time not only providing computer assistance, but sometimes actually acting as referee's when one patron uses another's allotted computer time. While the Internet is Cyberspace, public libraries need real space — space for more people and more computers. Usage at the San Bernardino County Libraries this past year mirrored the national trend. More people have passed through our branch library doors this past year than ever before — in excess of 3 million.

— Ed Kieczkowski

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SBCL
Budget 2001-2001



San Bernardino County
Board of Supervisors

First District
Bill Postmus
Second District
Paul Biane
Third District
Dennis Hansberger
Fourth District
Fred Aguiar
Fifth District
Jerry Eaves

Excellence Award Presented

SBCL's Graphics Technician Dani Cinquemani was chosen to receive the year's Public Service Recognition Award for Excellence, presented by the County's Board of Supervisors. Dani was recognized for her graphic design work in

the library's Community Services Department, design of the homepage and for her dedication to timely and friendly public service. Dani has been with the library for 6 years and is attending Cal State San Bernardino to obtain her BA in design.



Chairman Fred Aguiar presents SBCL's Dani Cinquemani with the year's Public Service Recognition Award for Excellence.

LITE & Literacy Services



Checking out books via the LITE Mobile Unit.

A Dad's Workshop at the Montclair LITE Center.



Parents can access the Internet at LITE Centers.



An Apple Valley LITE Center car seat safety information class.



A Big Bear LITE Center parent/child workshop.

In 2001 Apple Valley's LITE Center served as a project model for the Big Bear Lake, Montclair and Yucca Valley Centers that opened in January of 2002. A LITE Mobile Unit serves the High Desert communities of Adelanto, Barstow, Hesperia, Phelan, Victorville and Lucerne Valley. The project served 4,111 adults and 5,179 children 0-5 years of age in 2001-2002.

LITE Centers offer workshops and programs that provide parents and caregivers with education and information on their importance as a child's first and most important teacher and provide tools that can be implemented to enhance their children's health, welfare, emergent literacy needs and kindergarten readiness skills. A variety of workshops are conducted per week in a series of 4 or 5 weeks. Participants receive incentives upon completion of a series and are encouraged to attend special storytimes where children are given free books to build home libraries and encourage reading. Participants can also check out books, videos and CDs in multiple languages from a special LITE resource collection. Computer literacy is encouraged and enhanced at designated LITE Center PC stations. Advisory Councils representing each community assist with expertise, outreach, program review, participant evaluation review, and make recommendations for program improvement. The project is funded by the Children and Families Commission of San Bernardino County and SBCL.

Both the Adult and Families for Literacy programs continue to provide services in all 28 branch library locations. This year 853 adult learners received assistance from 391 volunteers who support the program by performing as tutors, advisors or in an administrative capacity. During the past year 2,109 families were provided with Families for Literacy services, programs and free books. Adults with children 0-5 years of age are eligible for free books to supplement home libraries and to encourage reading among families.

SCBL and the Barstow Literacy Coalition received a \$75,000 Verizon Foundation grant for Mother Goose Programs.



Parents attend a Mother Goose Program training.

The Yucaipa Literacy Coalition and branch staff participating in the annual KCVR fundraiser.



The Verizon Foundation graciously provided funding for the "Mother Goose Series" curriculum at 12 branch locations. Parents receive information and guidelines to encourage early literacy and receive an outstanding collection of children's literature books and tapes to add to their home libraries.

Community-based literacy coalitions assist in an advisory and fundraising capacity and contributed \$102,000 for materials, training, and travel expenses.



Youth Services

The library offers an array of services directed toward youth. Story hours, programs, homework assistance, after school activities and events geared toward children and young adults, help promote and encourage the use of resources, materials and services available at branch libraries.

Program Attendance By Children Up 20%

In the past year 61,991 new items were added to the children's and young adult collections. 1,414,773 children's and young adult items were circulated. Trained staff offered 59,550 attendees 1,616 programs designed specifically for preschoolers and elementary school-aged children. Additionally, 7,177 attended 366 programs geared and presented for young adults (ages 12-17).

SBCL sponsored its annual highly successful Summer Reading Program which was space-themed. "Books and Beyond: take me to your reader" was the theme for pre-school and school-age children at each of its 28 branch libraries and 22 libraries also offered a reading incentive program for teens themed "2001: A Book Odyssey".

The Summer Reading Program (SRP) had two components: a reading incentive program in which participants earned rewards by visiting their local libraries, checking out library materials and documenting their reading activity on themed reading logs. The incentives were donated by community sponsors, Friends of the Library groups and SBCL and included such items as rocket-ship shaped pencils, space erasers, paperback books, SRP T-shirts, gift certificates, meal/food item coupons, passes to amusement parks, museums, major league sporting events, zoos, movie theaters, and county regional parks, as well as a wide variety of merchandise from local retailers.

The second component provided weekly programs, sponsored by local Friends of the Library groups and featured professional presenters who shared wild animals, music, magic, storytelling, astronomy, marionettes, dance, ventriloquism, puppets, dog sledding and multicultural customs/tales.

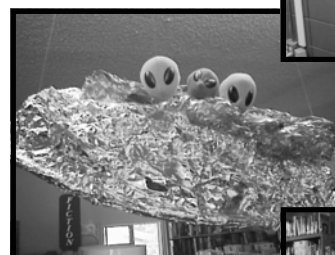
Teen volunteers were instrumental to the successful running of the SRP programs; they ran the registration and reading log validation stations, ensuring that all interested youth signed up for the program and were rewarded for their reading efforts. In some instances the teens also prepared and presented programs for the younger children (reader's theater plays, crafts, face painting, read alouds, scavenger hunts, game days, sign language interpretation of stories, fashion show, booktalks). They also decorated bulletin boards, managed crowds on program days, created props, videotaped presentations, served food and held fundraisers so that Teen Councils could sponsor programs or incentives and purchase materials for the Young Adult collection. The teens also act as ambassadors for the Library, encouraging other young adults to join the SRP or check out the latest "hot picks".



Take Me To Your Reader...



A pictorial overview of the successful "Take Me To Your Reader" and Teen "Space Odyssey" Summer Reading Program 2001...



Adult Services

In fiscal year 2001-2002 more than 2.9 million items, including books, magazines, audiotapes, videotapes, maps, CDs, CD-ROMs and DVDs were borrowed from the 28 County branch libraries. More than 101,138 adult interest-level items were added to the existing collection of 1,181,330 items and highly trained library staff continued to assist patrons with their reference requests and other information needs.

3,124,386
Library Visitors
Up 15%

The installation of 100 new PCs has eased congestion and provided patrons with more public access to the Worldwide Web and the libraries' catalog which now can be accessed at branch PCs and via the library's homepage. These additional computers were deployed with Internet access and Microsoft Office to assist in meeting the technical needs of today's patron.

Online resources have been expanded in response to patron demands and are available to anyone at a school, business or residence having a computer with Internet access! Seven electronic databases have been added and our virtual library now includes fourteen databases: InfoTrac General, Business & Company ASAP, Health Resource Center, Custom Newspapers, ProPhone, Biography Resource Center, What do I read next?, InfoTrac Kids, Total Access, History Resource Center: U.S., History Resource Center: Modern World, LearnATest and Mitchell's OnDemand. Additionally, 674 Electronic Books on various topics have been added and are a popular alternative to checking out print materials.

web
Libr@ry

Library staff receive ongoing electronic resources training and last year 211 were trained on the seven new databases and the use of e-books.

The Montclair Family Technology and Learning Center and the Highland Computer Lab continue to educate patrons and offers a wide variety of computer literacy classes covering everything from computer basics to internet usage and advanced application.

SBCL collaborates with the County's Auditor/Controller-Recorder and offers constituents service in three branch libraries. In the last year the Apple Valley, Montclair and Fontana Branch Libraries offered Recorder Services in satellite offices and provide birth certificates (San Bernardino County only), marriage certificates, marriage ceremonies (by appointment) and death abstracts in convenient locations, in the evenings and on Saturdays and Sundays (Fontana Branch only,) as an alternative to seeking such services previously only available in downtown San Bernardino. Specially trained and deputized library staff performed 1,356 marriage ceremonies and provided 9,080 other Recorder services to patrons.

Numerous programs of varied interest were offered, including book clubs, writing groups, author visits, poetry series, Native American culture and history, safety demonstrations, women's history, and many others.

Branches also offer public meeting rooms that host library events and are available to community organizations for meetings by reservation.



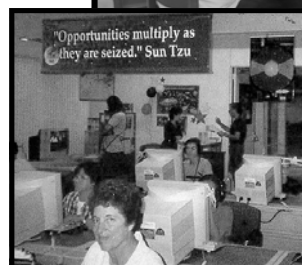
Patrons can obtain helpful, current, varied and general information at attractive displays located in branch libraries.



As a convenient alternative to traveling to downtown San Bernardino, patrons can obtain Recorder Services at the Apple Valley, Montclair or Fontana Branch Libraries.



Computers with Internet access, and assistance from trained library staff, are available.



At the Montclair Branch Library, Educators from the Ontario-Montclair School District can access a special collection of Curriculum-related classroom materials.

Volunteer Services

Volunteers...A Gift to the Community was the 2002 Volunteer Recognition theme. It could easily be changed to *Volunteers...a gift to the Library*, as our wonderful volunteers are truly

**1,800
Library Volunteers
Up 20%**

gifts! Between the numerous and varied duties that they perform and the countless hours they donate, the San Bernardino County Library can continue to offer excellent services to our growing communities. Volunteers check out, shelve, repair and sort books. Senior volunteers read to young children through our Grandparents and Books program.

Our literacy program tutors donate thousands of hours, teaching and encouraging adults to read. The Summer Reading Program owes much of its success to the numerous youth and adults who team together each year and volunteer for this program! This of course is just a sampling of the many areas to which our dedicated and hard working volunteers contribute.

Our volunteer force has increased this year to over 1,800 and continues to grow everyday! If you have the time to give us, we will find you a volunteer opportunity! In 2001-2002 our volunteers collectively donated over 96,000 documented hours. We are very grateful to our volunteers and they really are...*Gifts to the Community!*



Teen volunteers are honored at the Chino Hills Branch Library.

Rialto Branch volunteers enjoy their recognition event.



Running Springs Branch volunteers attend a dinner honoring their volunteer efforts.



Friends of the Library

With over 1,800 Friends of the Library members, the San Bernardino County Library is very fortunate indeed. Our Friends are dedicated and committed to making their library a strong institution of information and resources. To this end they tirelessly give of themselves in areas of fundraising and support. From book sales to gift baskets, to teddy bear tea parties to literacy boat cruises, they find wonderful ways to augment the county budget. This year the Friends of the Library groups have collectively donated over \$352,000 to purchase books, videos, audio books, program materials and much more.

The individual branch FOL groups often sponsor the Summer Reading program at their respective branches. They fund special programming, entertainment and incentives for the thousands of children who participate each year.

Additionally, many groups sponsor unique and exciting events for the community such as author readings/signings, living history interpreters and artist demonstrations.

Equally appreciated is the effort and support they give the library through their advocacy and letter writing campaigns on our behalf. With the recent decline of funding from the State of California, we know that we can count on our Friends.... the Friends of the San Bernardino County Library!

**\$352,000
Friends Contributions
Up 16%**



Lucerne Friends of the Library's Wild West Support Your Library Day.

Barstow Friends of the Library's annual book sale.



Montclair Friends of the Library conduct their monthly meeting.

Special Projects



A team of committed staff members redesigned the library's Internet home page. The new version can be accessed at <http://www.sbcounty.gov/library/>. The opening screen consists of a series of buttons linking users to the most useful parts of the site. Each branch has its own page with a calendar, location, hours, branch manager's name, and clickable maps at 3 levels of detail. Library employment opportunities are listed for the first time, and the library system's Facilities Master Plan can be reviewed. A major feature is called webLibrary, providing users with access to a wide variety of online resources. The library also installed a new version of its online catalog. This ver-

sion eliminates several non-relevant links and has a cleaner, more consistent user interface. Almost all methods of searching (by established heading or keyword, and limited by material type, publication date, and language) are available on the initial search screen. There is a Spanish language interface available for the first time, and access to the collections of our neighboring libraries in Riverside and Rancho Mirage is prominently featured . The new Apple Valley Branch Library was under construction all year and opened on September 20th. The \$3.3 million facility was funded by the State Library, City of Apple Valley, Apple Valley Foundation and community donations. The 19,412 sq. ft. stucco and frame building was designed by HMC Architects and was built by Eberhardt Construction.



Launching the new homepage and library cards to match.

Board of Supervisor Chair Fred Aguiar presents SBCL with a Resolution in honor of Children's Book Week.



Administration and Apple Valley staff are presented \$500,000 in funding for the new branch library.

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